

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP. #105A "The Tomato Drop"

By: Karen Moonah

Elinor's Question: How do you make a tomato fall more slowly?

Logline: *When Elinor and friends enter a 'tomato drop' contest, they design a solution (a parachute) to help a tomato fall more slowly so that it doesn't splatter.*

ES1. Understand that the Earth is made up of a variety of natural materials. a. Explore and describe the characteristics of earth materials such as sand, rocks, soil, water, and air.

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function'):
Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. Elinor and her friends will design a tomato parachute to help the tomato fall slowly, as a leaf does)

SEP 1. Defining problems (engineering) d.) Identify a problem (how to drop a tomato without damaging it) that can be solved by the design of a new or improved object or tool.

SEP 3. Planning and carrying out investigations. e.) Design and build a solution to a simple problem. (engineering) (Elinor designs a parachute)

SEP 6. Designing solutions (engineering) d.) Use evidence to support a (theory or) solution to a problem. (Elinor observes the scarf falls slowly and surmises it might help the tomato also fall slowly)

"Agree with everyone else. The line of thinking is very clear and preschool friendly. I think in addition to the other curriculum this episode addresses the engineering standards such as

"Understand that because there is always more than one possible solution to a problem, it is useful to compare and test designs""

LINE COUNT - 98

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Farmer Bear

Secondary: Sally, Lamb Sisters

Background: Ranger Rabbit, Senor Tipir)

Setting: Farmer Bear's Farm

Props: Triangle, Team Notebook, scarf, tomatoes, donut, wool, bread, box, springs, dandelion fluff, tape, leaf, pnecone, papaer, twig, leaf.

OUTLINE: 14-DEC-2018

FIRST DRAFT: 17-JAN-2019

SECOND DRAFT: 8-FEB-2019

POLISH: 25-FEB-2019

RECORD DRAFT: 4-MAR-2019

1. EXT. FARMER BEAR'S FARM - DAY

ESTABLISHING. It's a late summer day in Animal Town, and Farmer Bear is hosting a small 'Tomato Festival' to mark the end of the tomato harvest. Her farm is decorated for the occasion. TOWNSPEOPLE circulate.

In A FEW QUICK CUTS we establish the theme...

- MUSIC STAGE - SENOR TAPIR stands on a small riser, playing festive <GUITAR MUSIC>. (Music continues, under.)
- FOOD TABLE - MRS. GORILLA dumps tomatoes into her giant stewpot and attacks them with a masher, to make sauce.
- RING TOSS - SALLY BEAVER throws small hoops, trying to land one around the 'target' tomato. Finally, she rings it!

1 SALLY 1
Yes!

- BARN - FARMER BEAR judges TOMATO ARTWORK, displayed on the side of her BARN. Smiling, she sticks a RIBBON on one.

2 FARMER BEAR 2
Beautiful! First place!

ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE (all with PACKS/SATCHEL) are walking through. Olive wears a SILKY RED SCARF tied around her neck.

3 ARI 3
Ahh, Farmer Bear's Tomato Festival.
My favorite summer tradition.

4 ELINOR 4
Me too, Ari! Tomato food, tomato
games -

5 OLIVE 5
- and tomato clothes! See how my
scarf is red like a tomato?

Olive playfully 'fluffs' one end of her red scarf so that it falls slowly through the air.

Just then, Farmer Bear cups her hands and bellows:

6 FARMER BEAR (BELLOWS) 6
Attention please! Anyone who wants
to enter the Tomato Drop Contest,
follow me to the contest area now!

Elinor waves over to her Mom, RANGER RABBIT.

7 ELINOR (EXCITED) 7
Mom, we're going to the contest!

Ranger Rabbit waves back, nodding that she's understood.

8	ELINOR (CONT'D) (to her friends) Come on, let's go!	8
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They head off, following Farmer Bear to -

2. EXT. 'TOMATO DROP' CONTEST AREA - CONTINUOUS

Ari, Olive and Elinor join a group of kids at the contest area. (A set of LAMB TRIPLETS, and Sally Beaver.)

9	LAMBS /SALLY (excited walla)	9
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There is a LADDER in the middle of a dirt patch, and near it, a basket of RIPE TOMATOES. FARMER BEAR <WHISTLES> for attention, and the group quiets.

10	FARMER BEAR Welcome to the Tomato Drop! The first <u>two</u> teams who can drop a tomato from the top of this ladder safely - <i>without</i> splattering it - will win a <i>prize</i> .	10
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Elinor, Olive and Ari exchange excited looks.

11	ELINOR Oooh, a PRIZE!	11
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Farmer Bear indicates the basket of tomatoes.

12	FARMER BEAR Each team gets three tomatoes, and you can build anything you like, to try to keep them from splattering. Did everyone bring supplies?	12
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The gathered kids all hold up their bulging backpacks.

13	LAMBS / SALLY / ELINOR / ARI / OLIVE (ad lib nodding and agreement)	13
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Farmer Bear nods. She takes out a big old fashioned TRIANGLE.

14	FARMER BEAR Great! Then let's get this contest started. Are you ready?	14
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The kids all get into a ready stance. Farmer Bear holds her big triangle high, ready to ring it with a METAL ROD...

15 FARMER BEAR (CONT'D) 15
Set? ...GOOO-MATO!

<DINGLE-DINGLE-DING!> Her straw hat blows off as the kids stampede past, each team headed to grab their three tomatoes!

3. EXT. DROP LADDER - CONTINUOUS

Elinor, Ari and Olive run with their tomatoes to a grassy area near the ladder, and sling off their backpacks/satchel. Olive takes out their TEAM NOTEBOOK.

16 ARI 16
Okay. I've got a great idea! We take two slices of bread...

Ari gets TWO SLICES OF BREAD from his pack and hurriedly tries to tie them around a tomato, with TWINE.

17 ARI (V.O.) 17
...and tie 'em around the tomato to cushion it when it drops! It's a sandwich AND a cushion!

CU ON: The bread rips and crumbles.

18 ELINOR 18
Bread might be too crumbly, Ari.

19 ARI 19
Eh, you're right.
(brightens)
How 'bout a donut?

Undaunted, he pulls out a DONUT.

20 OLIVE (DIPLOMATIC) 20
Let's call that Plan B.

21 ELINOR 21
I have an idea, too...

Elinor pulls a few items from her own pack. SPRINGS, TAPE, and a SMALL CARDBOARD BOX.

22 ELINOR (CONT'D) 22
What if we take these squishy springs I brought...

Elinor holds the end of a spring to the outside of the box, and squeezes the spring for emphasis.

23 ELINOR (CONT'D) 23
 ...and tape them to the outside of
 this box. Then we can put the
 tomato inside...

As Elinor describes her idea, Olive quickly sketches it in the notebook, nodding as she draws.

24 OLIVE 24

Oh! So when we drop the tomato,
it'll *bounce* instead of splatting
on the ground?

Olive holds out the drawing. Around the sketch, a THOUGHT BUBBLE forms and the sketch inside animates: The box bounces a few times and then the tomato pops out, intact. The bubble bursts, leaving the original sketch on paper.

25 ELINOR 25
 Hopefully!

26	ARI	26
	Okay, let's try it!	

They set the notebook down, and quickly get busy taping the springs all over the outside of the box. As they work, we...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

4. EXT. DROP LADDER - MINUTES LATER

The box is now bristling with springs. Elinor places the tomato into the box, and closes it.

27 ELINOR (CALLS) 27
Farmer Bear? We're ready to try a
drop!

Farmer Bear heads over with a clipboard to watch the test. Elinor climbs the ladder with their spring-covered box.

28 FARMER BEAR 28
That's one springy box! Ready when
you are.

With Olive and Ari watching anxiously, Elinor dangles the box from the top of the ladder - then releases it. Sure enough, when it hits the ground it <BOUNCES... and BOUNCES... and BOUNCES> around! Ari and Olive scramble to catch it.

29 OLIVE 29
Whoa. <BOING> Hey! <BOING> Come
back here!

Finally, Ari seizes it.

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30                                ARI                                30
                                <BOING> Gotcha!

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Farmer Bear and the girls hurry over.

31	FARMER BEAR	31
	Let's see what'cha got!	

CLOSE ON the box as Ari opens it. REVEAL... a box full of splattered tomato.

32 ELINOR 32
(huff) Tomato goop. I think it
bounced around too much.

Farmer Bear smiles sympathetically.

33 FARMER BEAR 33
Well, don't give up. You still have
two more tomatoes!

34 LAMB #1 (PART OS) 34
Farmer Bear? We're ready to try!

CUT TO: One of the THREE LAMBS is holding a HUGE BALL OF WOOL.

35 OLIVE (PART OS) 35
Oh look, the Lamb sisters are using
their soft wool to keep the tomato
from squishing!

Farmer Bear writes on her clipboard, while one of the lambs climbs the ladder.

36 LAMB #1 36
Stand baa-a-a-ack!

The wool is dropped - it <FLOOFS> down gently. Lamb #2 reaches into the wool-ball, and pulls out - an intact tomato!

37 (cheers) LAMBS / SALLY / OLIVE / ARI / ELINOR 37

38 FARMER BEAR 38
Nicely done! Our first winners!
We'll give the prizes at the end.

BACK ON Elinor, Olive and Ari, watching.

OLIVE

Now there's only one prize left.

Ari futilely plucks at his own sparse fur.

40 ARI 40
If only we had some wool!

41 ELINOR 41
We don't have to do the same thing.
There must be more than *one* safe
way to drop a tomato.

Just then, the <BREEZE> picks up, disturbing some dandelions growing nearby, which have gone to seed...

SCIENCE CU: Elinor notices the fluff floating by.

ELINOR (CONT'D)

Ohhh!

Elinor captures it in her hands, and holds it up.

43 ELINOR (CONT'D) 43
Dandelion fluff is nice and soft,
just like the wool. (gasp) What if
we use THIS to cushion the tomato?

Olive catches on and draws in the notebook...

ON THE SKETCH - a tomato with fluff gathered around it.

44 OLIVE 44
Okay! But we'll need a lot of it.

She adds more fluff. A THOUGHT BUBBLE forms around the sketch: The dandelion fluff ball drops, lands safely, and out rolls an intact tomato! The THOUGHT BUBBLE POPS, and we're back to the original sketch.

45 ARI 45
Then we'd better get fluffin'!

They all get busy gathering fluff from the dandelions all around them. As 'fluff' fills the frame, we

'FLUFF' WIPE TO:

5. EXT. SAME LOCATION - MINUTES LATER

Elinor holds a PUFF OF DANDELION FLUFF (which keeps trying to blow away) as Olive tucks the tomato inside it.

46 ELINOR 46
Oh, the fluff is getting away!

47 OLIVE 47
Nothing a little tape can't fix.

Olive <SQUICKS> out *more* than a little TAPE and rapidly wraps it around the tomato to secure the fluffy padding.

48 ELINOR 48
All done!

ANGLE ON: The real tomato is much more sparsely covered than the tomato in the notebook.

49 ARI 49
Farmer Bear! Can we try again?

CUT TO Farmer Bear, as she overhears and heads over. This time Ari climbs the ladder, full of optimism.

50 ARI (CONT'D) 50
This time we've got the right stuff! Or should I say, the right *fluff*?

Elinor laughs, but Olive shakes her head at his groaner joke.

51 ELINOR / OLIVE 51
(laugh) /(good-natured groan)

Ari drops the fluff-covered tomato from the top of the ladder. But to their dismay - <SPLAT!>

52 ELINOR 52
Aww! It smooshed again! I guess we didn't use enough fluff.

Farmer Bear gives them an upbeat smile.

53 FARMER BEAR (ENCOURAGING) 53
See, you learn something, even when they do 'smoosh.' Keep trying!

Farmer Bear EXITS, jotting on her clipboard. Ari looks down at his friends, worried.

54 ARI 54
Keep trying, sure - but we only have one tomato left!

Elinor picks up their last tomato.

55 ELINOR (UPBEAT) 55
That's okay. We only need one safe drop! Let's keep thinking. What else can we try?

56 ELINOR (INTRIGUED) (CONT'D) 56
Whoa! Look at that leaf!

Elinor leads her friends in a spontaneous song about things

that 'fall slowly' as they explore the immediate area, collecting various items to test.

63	ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI	63
	(singing)	
	<i>Look high, look low,</i>	
	<i>For things that might fall slow</i>	
	<i>So we can figure out a way</i>	
	<i>to save our tomato</i>	

Olive frowns at hearing the accent on the wrong syl-LA-ble.

Olive (spoken) Tuh-may-TOE?
 Ari (spoken) Just go with it,
 Olive.
 All (singing) We'll hold 'em up
 then let 'em go
 Until we try
 We'll never know

Look high and low
For things that might fall slow
So we can figure out a way
to save our tomato

By the end of the song, they have collected a PINECONE, a STRAY PIECE OF PAPER (from the coloring contest) and a TWIG.

7. EXT. TOMATO DROP AREA - CONTINUOUS

They hurry back to their working spot with their items.

64	ELINOR	64
	We found some great things! Now	
	let's see how they fall.	
65	OLIVE	65
	I'll put them in two piles - either	
	'fell fast' or 'fell slow.'	

She gestures to two spots on the ground, then puts the leaf down where she indicated the 'slow' pile.

66	OLIVE (CONT'D)	66
	The leaf goes here. In the slow	
	pile.	
67	ELINOR	67
	Okay! First, the pinecone...	

Elinor hands Ari the pinecone, and he stands atop a nearby tree stump. He holds out the pinecone - drops it - and it plummets quickly to the ground.

68 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (UNISON) 68
Fast!

Olive puts the pinecone in the spot for the 'fast' pile.

69 ELINOR 69
Next, the paper...

Elinor jumps upward with the PAPER, to hand it to Ari on his high perch. He holds it out horizontally, then releases it -

SCIENCE C.U. -As the paper falls through the air, the edges flutter. We see 'air squiggles' under it, slowing it down.

70 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (OS) 70
Slowww!

Olive puts the paper in the area for the 'slow' pile.

71 ELINOR 71
Now let's try the twig.

Ari crouches down and Elinor hands him the twig. He stands up again and drops the twig - it plummets quickly. <THUMP!>

72 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI 72
Fast!

Olive scoops up the twig to put it with the pinecone, and as she bends, her scarf dangles. This gives her a funny idea..

73 OLIVE 73
Huh. I wonder what would happen if we dropped my scarf?

Ari beckons for the scarf, curious.

74 ARI 74
Let's try it!

Olive unties her scarf and hands it to Elinor, who jumps it up to Ari. He holds it out, then releases it.

They watch as the scarf 'floats' down...

75 OLIVE / ARI 75
Slowww!

SCIENCE C.U. - the scarf drops very slowly, billowing as it 'catches air' on the way down. (With air squiggles under it.)

76 ELINOR (OS) 76
Very slow! It looks like it's 'catching the air' as it falls.

88 At lightning speed, Olive cuts FOUR LENGTHS OF STRING, and 88
Ari and Elinor tie each string to a corner of the scarf.

But when Olive grabs the tape, all that's left is a nub.

85 OLIVE 85
Oh, no. We're out of tape! How can
we attach the strings to the
tomato?

Elinor holds the loose strings of her parachute, stumped.
Suddenly, Ari brightens. He digs out his donut, from earlier.

86 ARI 86
My donut!

87 OLIVE (INCREDULOUS) 87
Ari, this is no time for a snack!

But Elinor seizes the donut, inspired.

88 ELINOR 88
Oh, yes it is... we can tie the
strings to the donut!

Elinor quickly ties the strings to the donut, like a
horizontal tire swing. She sits the tomato on the donut hole!

8. EXT. DROP LADDER - CONTINUOUS

Farmer Bear watches while the Sally Beaver drops a POPSICLE-
STICK 'TOMATO CASE' - it breaks on impact. <SPLAT!>

89 FARMER BEAR 89
Aww. Good effort, Sally.

Ari frantically beckons.

90 ARI (PART O.S.) 90
Farmer Bear! We have one more try!

The Farmer hustles over to watch their last attempt. The
small crowd watches excitedly too.

Elinor climbs the ladder with their tomato parachute...

...while Ari and Olive worry up a storm.

91 ARI (CONT'D) 91
Ohhh, I can't watch!

Ari covers his face like a vampire - but peeks anyway.

He has an idea! We see a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** of using umbrellas to float down gently.

Lenormand runs OS then returns immediately with an armful of umbrellas and a basket of rocks and starts to climb the tower. A crowd gathers [shown in simple silhouette]

106	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	106
	The umbrella could help him land safe and sound But how big an umbrella would help get him down? He needed to find one just the right size And figuring that out would take a few tries	

At the top of the tower he starts his experiments. He drops a small rock with a small umbrella - it floats down gently.

107	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	107
	Design, test and improve, It's best way to know just what to do,	

He drops a large rock with a small umbrella, it crashes down,

108	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	108
	Design, test and improve, That's how he knew which umbrella to use,	

He drops a large rock with a large umbrella, it floats down gently.

109	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	109
	Lenormand used umbrellas and rocks, Different sizes! He kept trying things out, and discovered surprises, At last, he saw, big umbrellas were best, They were the ones that passed all his tests,	

Lenormand starts sketching rapidly. He dashes off screen and returns with a huge bundle of fabric attached with ropes to a harness.

110	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	110
	He built a device with the same basic shape It fit like a glove (or a very big cape)	

He dons the parachute and jumps!

111	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) It worked out! He landed With a gentle "Plop!" It's best to be safe For such a big drop! His parachute size had been carefully planned, To hold him up gently as he drifted to land. (CHORUS) Design, test and improve, It's the best way to know just what to do, Design, test and improve, That's how Lenormand made the parachute.	111
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Lenormand floats gently to the ground.

TRANSITION TO:

EXT PARK -- DAY

112	ELINOR / ARI "Wow!" / "That's amazing!"	112
113	ELINOR Do you need help getting down, Senor Tapir?	113
114	SENOR TAPIR No thank you Elinor, I have just what I need!	114

Tapir is now wearing a parachute and jumps out of the tall tree, floating gently down. He lands and bows to the kids who applaud. <SFX: applause>.

"OUR ATTEMPT (again, take it or leave it!)
 Lenormand wanted to jump off the tower
 And land nice and soft, like a leaf or a flower
 He didn't know how he would safely get down
 Til he saw someone walking high above town

FADE OUT.